

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-02 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 TRSE-00 FBIE-00 USSS-00 CTME-00 SSO-00  
SYE-00 /040 W

-----062440 201413Z /50

P 201353Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1649

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4629

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORS, KU

SUBJECT: REPORT OF KIDNAP THREAT AGAINST SON OF AMIR OF KUWAIT

REF: (A) STATE 210960, (B) STATE 209857.

1. REF A INDICATED THAT AMIR'S SONS, SHAIKHS BANDER AND  
NAIF, PLANNED DEPART WASHINGTON AUGUST 18 VIA LONDON FOR KUWAIT.

2. NEITHER FOREIGN MINISTRY NOR AMIRI DIWAN HAS MENTIONED  
TO EMBASSY REPORTED THREAT TO OR TRAVEL OF AMIR'S SON. WE  
DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE HAS IN FACT REACHED KUWAIT OR NOT.

3. EMBASSY SEES NO POINT IN MENTIONING THIS INCIDENT TO THE  
FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH HAS NOT RAISED IT WITH US. GOK  
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON MAY HAVE REPORTED IT TO FOREIGN  
MINISTRY, OR POSSIBLY DIRECTLY TO THE AMIR THROUGH THE  
AMIRI DIWAN. AT ANY RATE, WE WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY  
DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT WITHOUT KNOWING NATURE OF SECURITY  
DEPARTMENT COULD PROVIDE AMIR'S SON, IF ANY, SHOULD HE  
RETURN TO THE US WHILE KIDNAP THREAT STILL CURRENT.

4. COMMENT: (A) HISTORICALLY EMBASSY HAS NOT MADE  
SYSTEMATIC EFFORT TO KEEP TRACK OF MEMBERS OF AL-SABAH  
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FAMILY, MANY OF WHOM TRAVEL WIDELY AND WITHOUT FANFARE.  
EVEN THE AMIR'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS, RUMORED TO BE  
VERY NUMEROUS, ARE NOT NECESSARILY IDENTIFIABLE BY US  
FROM PASSPORTS SUBMITTED FOR VISAS. AS DEPT IS AWARE,  
PASSPORTS OF RULING FAMILY MEMBERS USUALLY STATE THAT  
THEY BELONG TO RULING FAMILY, BUT NEED NOT INDICATE  
PARTICULAR RELATIONSHIP TO INDIVIDUAL LEADING FAMILY

MEMBERS. EMBASSY ROUTINELY PROVIDES "A" VISAS, WITHOUT PERSONAL APPEARANCE, TO ANY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

(B) THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS DOZENS OF AL-SABAHS IN THE US AS STUDENTS AT ANY GIVEN TIME, BOTH AT UNIVERSITIES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS. WE HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT HARKER PREP, FOR EXAMPLE, IN POTOMAC, MARYLAND, IS FAVORITE SECONDARY SCHOOL OF AT LEAST ONE BRANCH OF RULING FAMILY. SHOULD THE TIME COME THAT USG DECIDES A SERIOUS THREAT EXISTS OF VIOLENCE TO OR KIDNAPPING OF RULING FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE US, GOK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WILL PROBABLY HAVE THE MOST COMPLETE INFORMATION ON IDENTITIES AND LOCATION. AS RECENT REVIEW OF OUR VISA FILES SUGGESTS, THEY PROVIDE INADEQUATE RECORD OF AL-SABAH FAMILY TRAVELS, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE MANY MEMBERS OBTAIN VISAS ELSEWHERE THAN IN KUWAIT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT KEEP EMBASSY FULLY INFORMED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS OR SIMILAR CASES INVOLVING AL-SABAHS.  
MAESTRONE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, KIDNAPPING, THREATS, DEPENDENTS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Film Number:** D780340-1146  
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**Subject:** REPORT OF KIDNAP THREAT AGAINST SON OF AMIR OF KUWAIT  
**TAGS:** PORS, KU  
**To:** STATE  
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